

From: "PAT GRANT" <plgrant@earthlink.net>
To: <MLPACComments@resources.ca.gov>
Subject: Proposed Carmel Bay/Cypress Pinnacles SMR
Date: Thu, 26 Jan 2006 12:19:18 -0800

To: John Ugoretz
DFG Policy Advisor

Good morning, John

I am a member of one of your smallest user groups; I am an ocean kayak angler. Because we have no representation on the BRTF it has been suggested that I contact you directly regarding the proposals for SMR's in Monterey County.

The proposed Cypress Pinnacles SMR could, based on my experience, decimate a prime example of sustainable recreation fishing and eliminate the premier, without exception, kayak fishing grounds in Monterey County.

Kayak fishermen are limited by quality launching opportunities. Most of Monterey County is exposed directly to ocean swell. With our generally NW swell, the Stillwater Cove launch in Carmel Bay is often the only safe and accessible kayak fishing opportunity for Monterey County kayakers. That this launch accesses the richest RCG Complex fishing grounds readily accessible to kayaks in Monterey County makes the proposals to carve holes in this unique fishing ground potentially devastating to kayak angling.

As you know, Carmel Bay is mostly a very deep canyon. Under current rules, the entire southern edge of the canyon (Pt Lobos), and everything more than 120 feet deep is preserved from RCG fishing. The northern strip of the canyon that kayakers spread over is less than 2 miles long and a half mile wide. Conditions permitting, the usual target grounds is an area called the Pinnacles.

The MLPA Proposals show the Carmel Bay Pinnacles being cut out of the existing SMCA and made into a no take area. This northern edge of Carmel Bay is rich in the RCG complex fish. Clearly, this is a prime example of how DFG regulations establish sustainable recreational fishing opportunities. Every proposal that allows future fishing cuts into this small but viable strip either 10-73%. I fear that even a dozen kayak fishermen would be hard on the area if fishing grounds were reduced to the cove and the golf course edge.

In Monterey County there is no other RCG Complex fishing ground equal to the northern edge of Carmel Bay for kayak fishermen. The Pt Lobos SMR is proposed to be substantially enlarged. This makes good sense. Continuing the SMCA area northwest from the Pt Lobos SMR, with the continued good quality DFG oversight that has historically occurred, would seem to me to serve the MLPA goals and preserve the gentle sport of kayak fishing in Monterey County.

I hope that you may have some influence in this design.

Please do not think that I oppose any closures. The draft proposals all show much of Monterey Peninsula and all of the area adjacent to Point Lobos becoming new SMR's. I can see the value in making these areas new reserves. We will lose some kayaking opportunities but everyone is giving up something.

Thank you for any help you might provide.

Pat

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